

Cultural Reflections on the English Civil War

Euramerican National Assembly

Agenda

- Introduction – overview of cultural ideas
- Background – Lead Up to the Civil War
- Royalists vs Parliamentarians – the issues
- Progression of Events – the timeline
- Cultural Implications

Introduction

Introduction

English Civil War

- A civil war in England from 1642 to 1651
- About 100 years before US formed
- Contested issue was Parliamentary Rule vs Absolute Monarchy
- King Charles 1st ruled at the time
- **BIG ISSUE:** where does sovereignty lie?

Introduction

- King Charles 1st
- (executive and legislature)



Parliament of England (the legislature)



Introduction

Question: who has final authority over definition of and rules for society?

- King – has authority as an absolute leader above all others
- Parliament – as a representation of the people

Introduction

It's important because it represents a cultural change in England and throughout Europe at this time:

- between various types of Reformists vs Absolute Monarchs
- Determined who had supreme authority over society and its laws

Introduction

The issue is "sovereignty": about who is the final authority over who defines and makes the rules and laws of a society

Introduction

Sovereignty

- **Definition:** Supremacy of authority or rule as exercised by a sovereign or sovereign state. The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, 5th Edition
- Top-level authority to make a decision without any higher authority's intervention or any other consideration

Introduction

Aristotle's Political Taxonomy

- Who rules?
- For whom do they rule?

	The One	The Few	The Many
For the Common Interest	Monarchy	Aristocracy	Polity
For the Interest of the Ruler(s)	Tyranny	Oligarchy	Democracy

Introduction

Monarchists want to imbue that authority in a monarch

Introduction

Republicans want to imbue it in a representative government (Polity)

- Imperialist Republics (The State is an “End” in itself)
- Representative Republics (The State exists to serve the will of the people)

Introduction

Imperial Republicans see the State as having sole authority over all of the different people in its domain, whether they agree or not

- The State, and only the State above all things
- All must defer to the good of the state
- Examples:
 - Rome

Introduction

- **Nationalist Republicans** see the nation of people as having this authority for "self-determination" and they may give it or retract it if the people aren't happy
- Does the State exist to serve the Nation, or does the Nation exist to serve the State

Introduction

This is an issue we face today:

Do the Democrats, or even Republicans, own us and get to tell us who our nation is, or do we belong to a nation and their legitimate power come from how they represent us and our nation?

Whatever faction gains control of the State gets to dictate our morals and values as a common people?

Background

Background

Kings gain control by using military force.

Background

The Magna Carta (1215) established limits on the power of the Monarch under English law

1. the king was subject to the law
2. the king could only make law and raise taxation (except customary feudal dues) with the consent of the community of the realm
3. that the obedience owed by subjects to the king was conditional and not absolute

Background

Parliament of England existed from 1200's until 1707.

Originally:

- Council of Bishops
- Council of Peers



Background

Who had sovereign representation originally?

- The Monarch was absolute sovereign
- The Church (as advisory)
- Aristocracy (as advisory)
 - Dukes
 - Marqess
 - Earls
 - Viscounts
 - Barons

Background

Later Split Into:

- The House of Lords (Bishops and Peers)
 - Similar to U.S. Senate – represents powerful interests of the State
 - Not elected by the people
 - Hereditary and by Appointment of the Monarch
- The House of Commons (Counties and The People)
 - Similar to U.S. House of Representatives
 - Voted by the People

Background

Justification of the House of Commons

- Counts wanted representation (as County districts)
- People wanted “Redress of Grievances”
- House of Commons was given power to stop government until grievances were addressed

Background

- In general, the Legislature put limits on the Monarch's Power
 - Monarch required parliament's consent for taxation
 - "Redress of Grievances" from the time of Henry IV
 - People could address complaints to the House of Commons directly
 - Citizens could vote to elect representatives (the burgesses) to the House of Commons

Background

But....

Monarchs had a lot of power still

Background

And...

The Parliament progressively grew more powerful and limited the actions of the Monarch

Royalists
Vs
Parliamentarians

Royalists vs Parliamentarians

- Royalists were loyal to King Charles I of England



Royalists vs Parliamentarians

- Royalists were also known as “**Cavaliers**”
 - Long Flowing Hair in Ringlets
 - Brightly Colored Clothing with elaborate trimmings (e.g. lace collars and cuffs)
 - Plumed hats
- Wanted to maintain the power of the Monarch, the church, and “the peers” over society



Royalists vs Parliamentarians

- Parliamentarians (Legislative Branch as Sovereign)
- Known as “Roundheads”
- Wanted Parliament to have supreme executive authority over England (delegated to an Executive)
- Wanted Parliament to be responsible for the Creation and Execution of the laws
- Factions:
 - Puritans
 - Presbyterians
 - Scots
- Generally, supported a monarchy, but limited by Parliamentary-defined limits

Royalists vs Parliamentarians



Royalists vs Parliamentarians

- Issues of Contention:
 - Constitutional Monarch vs Absolute Monarch (and divine Rights of Kings)
 - Parliament is the Sovereign ... or ... the King is the Sovereign
 - Executive and Legislative Administration under King vs Parliament
 - King's Power to be limited by a constitution
 - Parliament sets laws and limits for all society (including limiting the Royalty)
 - Justification is that Parliament represents the Will of the People because they're voted in

Royalists vs Parliamentarians

Later Developed in a fight for a Commonwealth of England (a republic) vs Absolute Monarch

Progression of Events

Progression of Events – The Leadup

- King Charles 1st was engaged in expensive wars, wanted to raise taxes without consideration of the Parliament
- The Parliament refused to grant new taxes
- King Charles dissolved Parliament in 1622

Progression of Events – The Leadup

King Charles ruled without a parliament for eleven years (known as "Eleven Years' Tyranny" by opponents)

Progression of Events – The Leadup

- King Charles finally called for a new Parliament in 1640
- The New Parliament was very obstinate against royal rule
 1. Against raising more taxes without Parliamentary approval
 2. Passed Laws disallowing the king to dissolve the Parliament
 3. Passed laws giving Parliament control over the kings administrators

Progression of Events – The Kickoff

- 4 January 1642, King Charles followed by 400 soldiers entered the House of Commons to arrest five he charged with Treason
- Because of Foreknowledge, the five were not there

Progression of Events – The Kickoff

- The Parliament and English people turned against Charles 1st
- Cities and Towns joined in to supported either the King or the Parliament

Progression of Events

The First English Civil War (1642-1646)

- King's forces fought against Parliamentary forces across England
- Royalists did well at first



Progression of Events

The First English Civil War (1642-1646)

In 1643,
Parliamentary forces
pulled ahead



Progression of Events

The First English Civil War (1642-1646)

- A parliamentarian soldier, Oliver Cromwell, introduced an innovative military structure and discipline (New Model Army)



Progression of Events

The First English Civil War (1642-1646)

Parliamentarians pulled ahead in the fighting



Progression of Events

The First English Civil War (1642-1646)

- Parliamentarians captured King Charles and imprisoned him



Progression of Events - Intermission

- King Charles 1st was imprisoned and put on trial. Still saw himself as King and Sovereign.
- The New Model Army (under Cromwell) rose in power and prominence within the Parliament
- King Charles maneuvered in the background for restoration as the Sovereign

Progression of Events

The Second English Civil War (1648-1649)

- King Charles promoted uprisings by various Royalists through 1648
- Unpaid Parliamentarian troops changed sides in 1649 and more fighting ensued
- Parliamentarian Army fought a final battle in 1649, winning and ending the second civil war

Progression of Events – Treason Trial

- Charles stood trial for treason
- Found guilty of Treason
- Executed on 30 January 1649

Progression of Events

The Third English Civil War (1649-1651)

- Fighting continued in Ireland - brutally suppressed
- Fighting continued in Scotland - New Model Army won

Progression of Events

Parliament reigns supreme over the
Commonwealth of England

Progression of Events

- Parliament is highly divided
- Parliament installs Charles 2nd as King (Charles 1st's son)

Progression of Events

- Kingdom of Great Britain formed in 1707
- Britain becomes a Constitutional Monarchy

Results on Euramerica

Results on Euramerica

Magna Carta's limited powers doctrine upheld:

- limited Sovereignty for the Executive
- No taxation without representation
- Obedience is conditional and not absolute

Results on Euramerica

- The English Civil war immediately sets ideas leading to the American Revolutionary War
- **John Locke** lived during the English Civil War
- **John Locke** wrote philosophical treatises about which influenced Euramericans in North America
- **George III** (grandson of Charles II) promoted “taxation without representation.”

Results on Euramerica

Embodiment of the desire for a representative republic (first established in the Commonwealth of England)

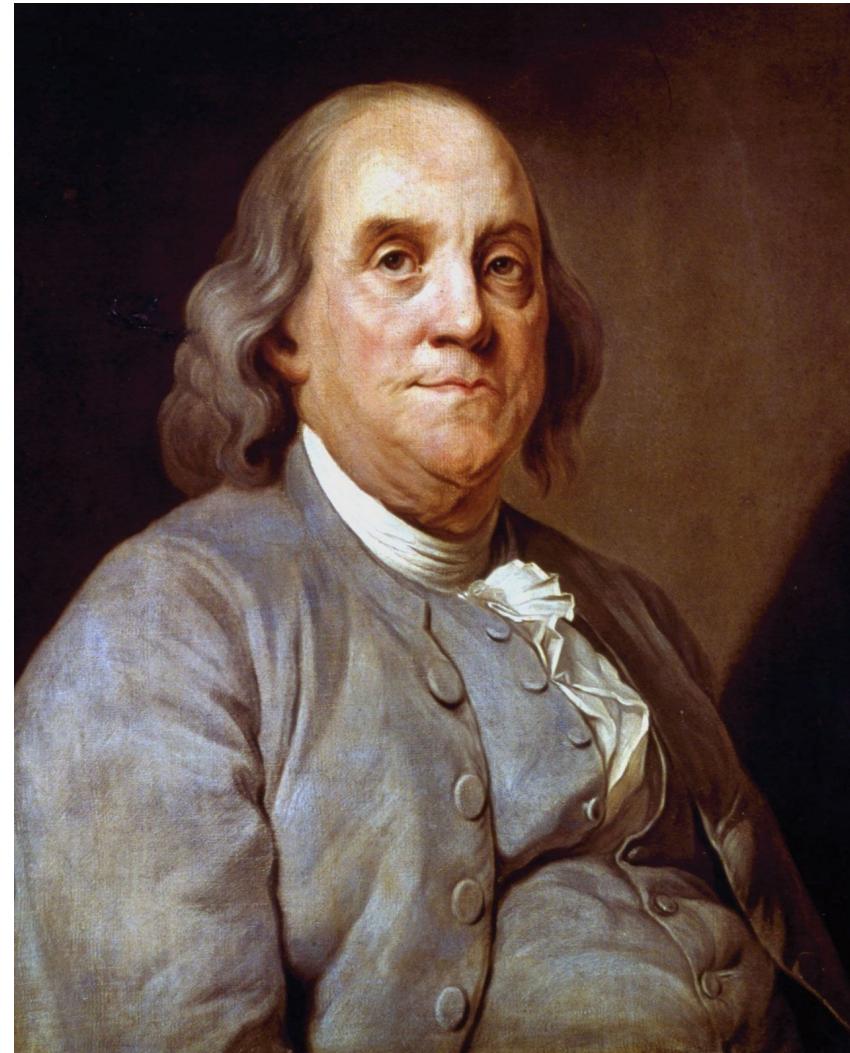
A lady asked Benjamin Franklin:

“Well Doctor what have we got a republic or a monarchy?”

Benjamin Franklin:

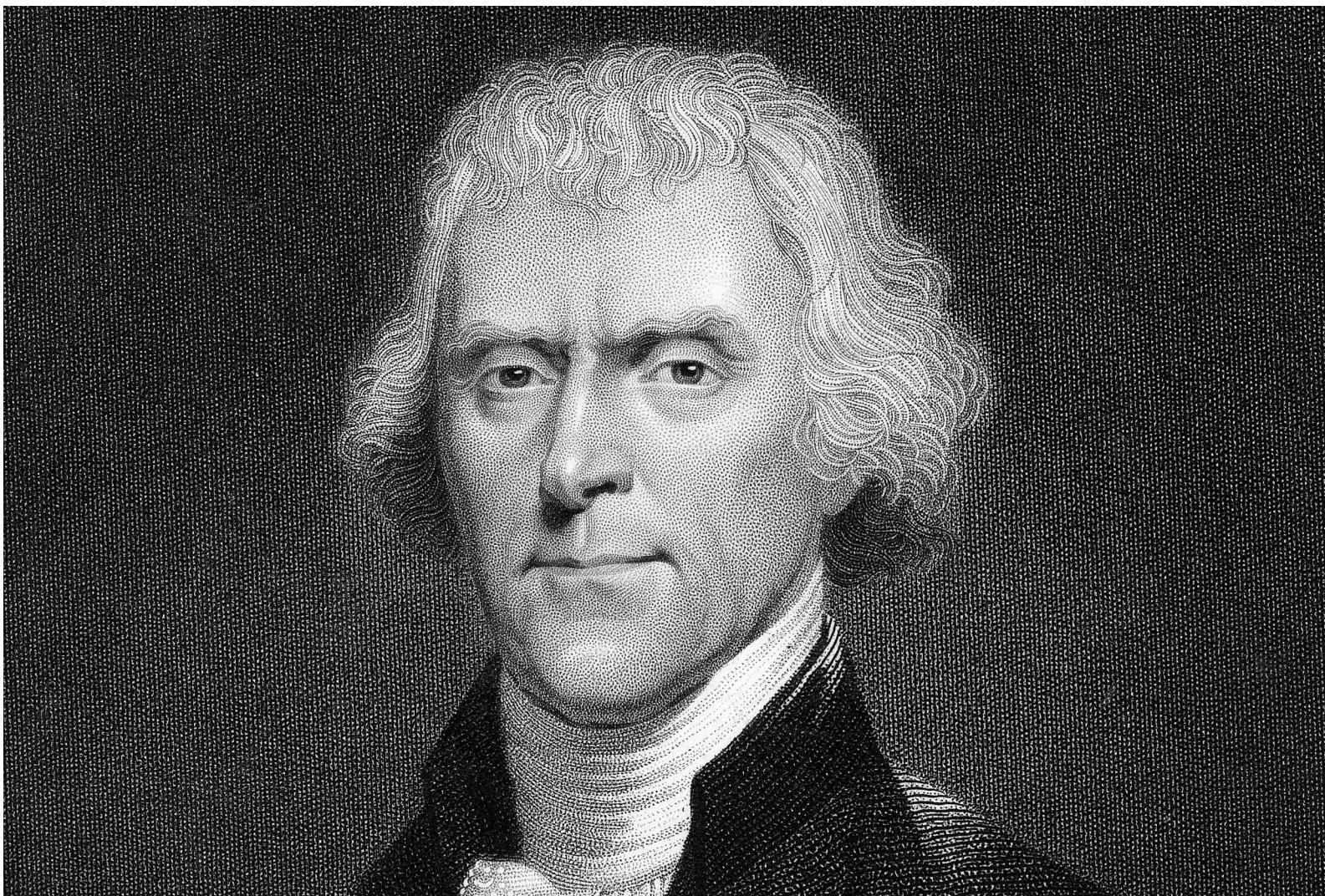
“A republic ... if you can keep it.”

Results on Euramerica



Benjamin Franklin

Results on Euramerica



Thomas Jefferson

Results on Euramerica

- Resulted in American Revolutionary War: sovereignty resides in the People, not the individuals who claim it for themselves, or the institutions.
- Quoting the Declaration of Independence:

"... Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed"

(Thomas Jefferson referencing John Locke)

Results on Euramerica

- John Locke's ideas reflected in the *Declaration of Independence*:
- "... **Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed**"

The End